

THE RIO NEWS.

PUBLISHED ON THE 5th, 15th AND 24th OF EVERY MONTH.

VOL. VII.

RIO DE JANEIRO, OCTOBER 15TH, 1880

NUMBER 29

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ELECTORAL REFORM.

The essential features of the electoral reform bill proposed by Counselor Sarinva and his ministerial associates last May, and which were afterwards passed with some slight modifications by the Chamber of Deputies, were: 1, election by direct vote instead of through electoral colleges as at present; 2, the extension of full political rights to non-catholics and naturalized citizens; 3, a prohibition upon certain officials against becoming candidates within the territory over which they have authority; 4, establishing boards of registry from the highest tax-payers in each district; 5, the election of deputies separately and by districts instead of collectively and by provinces as now.

The reforms sought through these changes in the electoral system were in many respects radical, but they were no more so than the necessities of the case required. It had long been patent to every thoughtful observer that Brazilian elections were farcical in the highest degree. They were never the expression of the popular will, the result of a popular opinion. Ministers were made and unmade at the sole will of the Emperor and when these changes brought about a change in the dominant party, the elections have never been known to result adversely to the party actually in power. It was not surprising, therefore, that a liberal minority of sixteen in the Chamber of Deputies under the conservative ministry of the Duque de Caxias in 1877 became an absolute majority under the liberal ministry of Counselor Sinimbu in 1878; and were there to be a change in the dominant party to-morrow the complete reversal of this majority in the ensuing election would be not only not surprising but it might be predicted with absolute certainty. The election was therefore only a pliant instrument in the hands of the government and meant no more than the famous *plebiscite* of Napoleon III.

The peculiar character of elections enabled the government to easily control them and to secure the return of its chosen candidates. In a country where social institutions make so wide a gap between the high and the low, where communication is difficult, where education is limited and almost wholly confined to the ruling class, and where the absence of a thoroughly independent and enterprising press, outside the few large cities of to-day, keeps back that wider knowledge of the world and the consequent discussion of men and principles—in a country where all these things are found such a thing as a sound, independent public opinion is an utter impossibility. It follows, therefore, that a primary election, especially under the complicated routine of the present system, is nothing more than a formality, a sham. And in the secondary elections, where electoral colleges meet and elect, the result is even more absurd and fruitless for the simple reason that the machine manipulation of the primary elections has secured the electors desired, and their subsequent management by a government with places and funds at its disposal is a very slight task. An election therefore is nothing more than a fictitious popular expression of the ministerial will.

It is evident that Counselor Sarinva entered upon the task of forming the present ministry with a sincere determination to put a stop to these abuses, and to secure such other reforms as would render Brazilian elections something more than cut and dried endorsements of machine intrigues. With this purpose in view the useless formality of an electoral college was cut off and the elections were made direct. That crying injustice in Brazilian politics—the imposition of political disabilities upon non-catholics and naturalized citizens—was removed. A prohibition was placed upon the undue and not infrequent influence brought to bear upon elections by influential public officials in order to secure their own return to the legislature, very often to a life position in the Senate itself. The

management of local elections was taken out of the hands of the machine men and placed in the hands of the highest taxpayers of the district. And finally, the members of the popular branch of the legislature were to be chosen by districts, in order that the principle of representation might be more nearly attained, and that local as well as provincial interests might be represented. No one could believe that these reforms would at once secure pure and independent elections, but as they were necessary steps in that direction they were received with general approval.

After some unimportant modifications and the suppression of the clause creating boards of registry from the highest tax-payers, the bill was speedily passed by the Chamber of Deputies and sent up to the Senate, where it remained in committee until the 27th ult. In the final report of that committee, the electoral reform project, of which so much had been hoped, has come forth shorn of nearly every feature upon which a real reform is based. Sufficiently complicated at first it is now even more so, and to such an extent that every possible benefit from a direct vote will be lost. The committee has stricken out everything pertaining to the removal of political disabilities and the abolition of the oath, thus defeating the most essential and vital element of reform in the whole project. What with the property limitation on voters, and the restrictions on account of religion and nationality, there remains even less freedom under the proposed law than under the laws now in vigor. The election of deputies by districts is retained but under a discarded law of 1855 and in conformity with legislation hereafter to be provided—all of which means that the concession will be so limited and restricted as to be shorn of every possible benefit.

Under existing circumstances, we can not see any tangible benefit in the project of electoral reform now under consideration in an extraordinary session of the legislature. What Brazil most needs is the new blood and enterprise which foreign immigration alone can bring—that same vigor and life which is being poured so lavishly into the United States every day of the year. It has been there demonstrated through long years of experience that this foreign element soon adapts itself to the needs and conditions of the country, and that, with one possible exception, it is a source of real strength. If, therefore, such benefits arise from the concession of full political rights to all, irrespective of creed or nationality, in the United States, it is not highly probable that the same policy will produce similar results in Brazil? The immigrant who works best and adds most to the wealth and prosperity of a country, is the one who can most fully identify himself with its institutions. Shut him out from a full enjoyment of its advantages because of his religion or his alien birth and you destroy the best incentive to exertion which he can possess.

The restrictive policy of Brazil in this matter has already done her incalculable harm, and now that the world is growing out of this narrow spirit of intolerance and restriction it promises to do a much greater measure of harm in the future. If it be true, as the Senate committee asserts, that these reforms can only be accomplished by constitutional amendments, then let the amendments be brought forward at once and let the organic law of the empire be forever freed from this narrow and unworthy jealousy. Whatever may be her natural advantages, Brazil can never prosper as long as she deprives any part of her people, either native or adopted, of the full enjoyment of their personal and political rights, and of the fullest condition of equality.

In a letter to the *Jornal do Commercio* of the 8th inst. Senator Candido Mendes de Almeida says that he began life in 1839, the date of his graduation, with three slaves—one inherited and the other two gifts. Those slaves he gave their freedom, and now is able to say: "for more than thirty years I have have not possessed slaves, nor have I purchased any." In a country where slave holding is legalized, and is so general, these are words worthy of the highest praise.

TEN YEARS' PROGRESS.

Nations should not only take a decennial census of population, but also draw up a balance sheet every ten years of what progress they may have made in industry, wealth, commerce, instruction, and morality. We have only to compare the returns of the Board of Trade for 1870-80 with those of ten years ago to see the advancement of the United Kingdom as follows:—Increase.—Population, 11 per cent.; revenue, 8 per cent.; public wealth, 30 per cent.; commerce, 13 per cent.; shipping, 16 per cent.; textile manufactures, 29 per cent.; minerals, 45 per cent.; railway traffic, 45 per cent.; post office, 45 per cent.; schools, 122 per cent.; public morality, 13 per cent.; welfare of poor, 19 per cent. Population has not grown so fast as in previous decades, but the ratio of increase is still much higher than the European average. It was 13 per cent. in England and 10 in Scotland, while Ireland showed a decline of 1 per cent., owing to emigration. The total number of British emigrants was 1,564,000, from which, deducting those who returned, the balance or net loss would be 895,000, and if these were added to the actual population the increase would reach 14 per cent. Revenue or taxation is higher now than it was ten years ago, the average for last year being 48s. per inhabitant. In the same interval the National Debt has been reduced by 24 millions sterling. Public wealth is pretty accurately measured by the income tax valuation, which is now £134,000,000 higher than in 1869, an increase of £4 per inhabitant; even in Ireland the ratio is higher by £2 per head. It seems that the average income varies in the three kingdoms as follows:—£19 in England, £15 in Scotland, £7 in Ireland, and £17 for the whole United Kingdom. The accumulation of wealth among the working classes, as represented by deposits in savings banks, has risen from 51 to 76 millions sterling, being almost 50 per cent. Compared with population, the savings deposited since 1869 have been 18s. per inhabitant in England, the same in Scotland, and 4s. in Ireland. It is, furthermore, worthy of observation that the deposits in the Bank of England reached 39½ millions sterling in 1879 against 22 millions in 1869, the increase being relatively almost double as great as in the savings banks.

Commerce has likewise grown faster than population, showing last year a ratio of £17.18s. 3d. per inhabitant against £17.4s. 6d. in 1869. Many people erroneously suppose that it is only our imports that increase, while our exports decline. Suffice it to say that the exports of 1879 were 12 millions sterling over those of 1869, being an increase of 5 per cent. Our merchant shipping (not including colonial) has risen 860,000 tons, but the effective carrying power is almost doubled, owing to the enormous development of steam traffic. In 1869 steamers were 17 per cent. of our shipping, the present ratio being 38 per cent., and, if we count them as four times the power of sailing vessels, we find our carrying power is now 14 million tons, as against 8½ million tons ten years ago. If we include colonial, the total British tonnage would be equivalent to 19½ million tons, the total for all nations being a little over 40 millions. Manufactures, minerals, and railway returns show at a glance the progress of internal industry. Our mills in 1879 consumed 1,615 million pounds of cotton and wool, against 1,248 millions in 1869, an increase of 29 per cent.; while our mining industry rose 45 per cent.; the value of coal, iron, &c., extracted last year amounting to 64 millions, against 44 millions in 1869. By a remarkable coincidence, our railway traffic has grown in the same ratio as minerals, the gross earnings having risen from £41,100,000 to £59,400,000. Another coincidence is the post office increase, also 45 per cent.—viz., 847 million letters in 1869, and 1,239 millions last year.—*The Times*, Sept. 3, 1880.

RAILROAD NOTES.

—The September receipts of the Caraguila railway were 55,216\$300.
—It is reported that a revision of the tariff of the Dom Pedro II railway will soon take place.
—The August receipts of the Baturité railway were 19,009\$188 and the expenditures 14,963\$720.
—The September receipts of the Pirapetanga railway were 15,783\$430. The number of passengers carried was 1,812.
—An extension of the Pirapetanga railway is projected from Pirapetanga to Santa Antonio de Padua. The distance is 38 kilometers.
—Three engineers have been dismissed from the Paulo Afonso railway because they were not in accord with the new chief engineer, Dr. Moraes.
—The British brig *Tauis* arrived at Pernambuco on the 5th inst. from Liverpool with 6,731 sheeters and 34 packages of iron material for the Linoeiro railway.
—The British bark *Rialto* arrived at Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, on the 17th inst. from Pernambuco, United States, with 11,443 pine sleepers, and 934 packages of iron and office material for the "Natal a Nova Cruz" railway.
—The September receipts of the Leopoldina railway were 166,470\$675, as against 84,783\$800 for the same month of 1879. The coffee traffic amounted to 3,479.8 tons. The number of passengers carried was 10,172, of which 5,820 were 1st class and 4,352 were 2nd class.

—The August receipts of the Feira de Santa Anna branch of the Imperial Central Bahia railway were 8,963\$970 and the expenditures 8,822\$090. The number of passengers carried was 2,058, of which 266 were 1st class and 1,796 were 2nd class. The freight traffic amounted to 575.6 tons.

—Decree 7,838 of the 4th inst. concedes a 50 years privilege to Benedito Antonio da Silva, Adolpho Augusto Pinto and Luiz Augusto Pinto for the construction and use of a railway from S. João do Rio Claro, the terminus of the Paulista line, to S. Carlos do Pinhal, province of S. Paulo.

—Decree 7,803 of August 26, authorizes the "Companhia Geral de Chemia de Fer Brásiliana" to transact business in the empire of Brazil. The life of the company is fixed at ninety-nine years. It is now engaged in constructing the Parana railway from Panamanguá to Curitiba.

—A special freight train on the Leopoldina railway, carrying coffee from Cataguases to Porto Novo in Cunha, ran off the track near Recreio on the 30th ult. The accident was caused by a broken rail. Three cars were thrown off and broken up, the coffee being completely ruined by dirt and rain. One brakeman was seriously injured and another had a leg broken. The line is said to be in a very bad state.

PROVINCIAL DEBT OF GOYAZ.

According to the late report of the president of Goyaz the public debt of that province on the 31st of December, 1879, amounted to 79,768\$907, as follows:

Provincial apolices.....	51,600\$000
Floating debt loans, 6 per cent.....	10,991\$165
do do 8 per cent.....	9,000\$500
Unpaid salaries and subventions of previous years.....	7,282\$143
do of current year.....	83\$599
	79,768\$907

The sums owing to the provincial treasury at the same date amounted to a total of 51,521\$287, of which only 38,259\$666 is classified as "collectable."

The sum of 10,664\$113 is classified as "insolvent." A comparison of the present debt with the debt statements of the two preceding years shows that it has been considerably diminished. At the close of the fiscal year 1877-78 the total indebtedness of the province was 117,281\$153. In the following half year that amount was largely diminished, the total on the 31st of December following being 89,808\$044—a reduction of 27,473\$109. The total reduction in the debt of the province during the calendar year 1879 was 10,999\$137.

—Decree 7,830, of the 21st ult., grants an interest guarantee of 7 per cent. on 400,000\$ for the construction of a central sugar factory on the Santa Anna fazenda, Vassouras, province of Rio de Janeiro.

—The total number of immigrants, including all 3rd-class passengers, entering this port during the month of July was 2,031, of which 131 were subsidized. The number of departures was 501, of which 216 went to Paraná, 165 to Santa Catharina, 86 to Rio Grande do Sul and 34 to S. Paulo.

—Decree 7,805, of August 26, grants permission to Domingos Maria Gonçalves, to incorporate a company under the title "Companhia Zootécnica Agrícola do Brasil" for the purpose of founding agricultural establishments for poor boys. The capital is fixed at 1,500,000\$, and the scheme must be carried into effect within three years.

—Colonel Sergio Volnsey, envoy extraordinary on a special mission from Romania to Brazil, had audience of the Emperor on the 2nd ult. His mission is to notify Brazil of the independence of Romania, and to present the Emperor with the grand cross of the Order of the Star of Romania.

—We are under obligations to the secretary of the New York Chamber of Commerce, George Wilson, Esq., for the 22nd annual report of that corporation. The report is a carefully-prepared volume of some 500 pages, and contains an elaborate resume of the commerce of New York for the fiscal year 1879-80, together with valuable tables of the general commerce of the United States, as compiled by the Bureau of Statistics.

—Deputy Fias Leme, of the Rio de Janeiro provincial assembly, believes in protecting native industry, and as one of the means he proposes a duty of 5,000,000\$, divided into 500,000 tickets, the product of which shall be applied to the founding of agricultural stations in various municipalities. It is certainly a beautiful scheme—so beautiful, in fact, that it ought to be extended just a little further. We propose that lotteries be substituted for labor itself, and that everybody shall live on the proceeds. In such case, every man should be "protected" in his right to draw at least one large prize per annum, or, if he can make good his claim to it. There's nothing like living with your hand in another man's pocket, especially if that pocket contains "portable property."

This manufacture of pins in English factories amounts to 50,000,000 a day, of which 17,000,000 are made in Birmingham. The weight of wire consumed is about 1,275½ tons per annum, valued at about £46,500.

PROVINCIAL NOTES.

—A boy was killed at Faxina, S. Paulo, on the 24th ult. by a halibone.

—The cable steamer *Norwinn* arrived at Santos on the 21st inst. from Sia. Calhoun.

—The provincial assembly of Minas Geraes held its first session on the 28th ult.

—The present indebtedness of the province of Minas Geraes amounts to 1,442,350\$.

—Agricultural societies are being organized in various localities of Rio Grande do Sul.

—The August receipts of the Uruguayan, Rio Grande, custom house were 34,764\$597.

—The *Artista* of Rio Grande says that a steam candle manufactory is soon to be established at Pelotas.

—The city of Bahia imposes a tax of 25\$ per annum on every mercantile house in which foreign fireworks are sold.

—The net proceeds of the benefit performance at Campinas on the 22nd ult. for the composer Carlos Gomes amounted to 456\$530.

—A conflict of interests has arisen between the two neighboring cities, Rio Grande and Pelotas, through an agitation by the latter for a custom house.

—The September receipts of the Bahia custom house were, national 807,188\$027, provincial 67,345\$407, internal revenue, national 47,971\$160, provincial 76,629\$533, post office 5,529\$500.

—The authorities of Santo Amaro, Bahia, impose a tax of 10\$ upon every "free African" engaged in trade. The law authorizing this impositions tax is No. 2,149 of Sept. 18, 1880, of the provincial assembly.

—It is significant that the address of the vice-president of Minas Geraes at the opening of the provincial assembly on the 25th ult. contains a quotation from Leroy Beaulieu. That clears all doubts—Leroy was a Minister.

—The Santos customs authorities issued a notice on the 5th inst., requiring that certain specified merchandise, now in that custom house, shall be claimed within 30 days, under penalty of its being sent to auction at the expiration of that time.

—The *Gazeta do Norte*, of Pindamonhangaba, São Paulo, of the 3rd inst., says that the planters of that locality are about to organize a club, in the interests of free labor. Their aim will be to substitute the slave by the free laborer.

—The customs and revenue receipts at Pernambuco during September were as follows:

	1880	1879
Customs.....	840,495\$457	608,833\$024
Consulados.....	230,394\$815	136,113\$347
Internal revenue.....	42,246\$280	38,525\$143

—The late storms in Santa Catharina, mentioned in our last issue, caused the overflow of the Rio Itajaí, and the inundation of the village of that name. Forty-eight houses were totally destroyed and a large amount of property was either destroyed or damaged. The loss at Itajaí and in the neighboring colonies is estimated at 2,000,000\$. At last accounts, 28 lives were lost.

—The poor prisoners in quod at Naraoh, Pernambuco, are threatened with starvation, owing to a reduction in the annual appropriation from 2,000\$ to 500\$. That amount has already been expended and now there is a complete lack of supplies. Efforts are making to meet the emergency by a private subscription. The prisoners threaten to break jail if they are not better cared for.

—A poor *matuto* of Palmares, Pernambuco, complains of a police official after this fashion. He was sitting on his horse in the street on the 1st of September, when the police *embalegado* came up and ordered him to dismount, as he wanted the horse. The *matuto* refused, when he was compelled to dismount and the horse was given to a soldier who rode away on it in company with the *embalegado*. And for such slight reason the impatient *matuto* feels aggrieved.

—The *Gazeta de Campinas* relates that, some days ago, a man purchased a ticket and a half, for himself and wife, on the Paulista railway. When the agent came to mark the tickets he asked for whom the half ticket was intended. The passenger indicated his wife, to which the agent replied that ladies were required to pay full fare. "To this the passenger retorted that the lady was his "dear half" and that he had paid accordingly. That opens up boundless possibilities in the economic world.

—The Paulista press is highly indignant at the suppression of the sale of Ypiranga lottery tickets by the authorities in Rio. But what can our São Paulo friends expect? If provincial tickets are to be sold here for 10\$, the local industry will suffer. A chance for 1,000,000\$ at 10\$ has a very great advantage over a chance for 20,000\$ at 20\$, and in so unequal a contest the latter will be certain to go to the wall. Our provincial colleagues should not forget that the economic doctrines of the day do not admit the principle of free trade, not even in lottery tickets. A man must buy and sell just as the penny economists think best.

—On the 23rd ult. the police authorities of Paris arrested one Manoel da Matta Pimentel on a charge by João Francisco Lagoas that he had stolen 1,500\$ from him. Pimentel asserts, however, that he met Lagoas on the 22nd and offered to sell him 40,000\$ in counterfeit currency for 20,000\$. Lagoas accepted the offer and agreed to pay 3,000\$ in cash, and give his note for 17,000\$, payable in six months. They met again that afternoon, when Pimentel gave Lagoas four packages which he described as "the thing," and received 1,000\$ in cash with a promise of the remaining 2,000\$ that same evening. Lagoas afterwards discovered that the packages contained nothing but strips of brown paper, and he then had Pimentel arrested for theft. The latter was held to answer the charge. But suppose the packages had contained counterfeit money?

—The August receipts of the Ceará postoffice were 2,912\$580.

—The Ceará provincial assembly closed its sessions on the 25th ult.

—Further reports from Pará state that very few of the fugitive slaves escaped who were attacked by the Anambés on the Rio Carná. Their settlement was destroyed.

—Twelve slaves were freed by the Pernambuco abolition club and four by the academic emancipation club on the 28th ult.—the ninth anniversary of the passage of the Rio Branco emancipation law.

—Guaratinguetá, S. Paulo, is to have a theatre to be known as the "Theatro Carlos Gomes." The shareholders had a meeting on the 2nd inst., and felicitated the composer.

—A quarrel and separation resulted in the shooting of Maria Rodrigues Cordeiro by her husband, Luiz Gonzaga Lopes, at Goyaz on the 2nd ult. The murderer escaped.

—The treasury of the province of Amazonas is said to have a surplus of 400,000\$ and the provincial government is without any authorization to spend it. An extraordinary meeting of the assembly is to be convoked in order to provide the needed authorizations. An easier way out of the difficulty would be to send an ex-minister of finance up there to govern the province for a few weeks.

—The total receipts of the province of Goyaz during the year 1878-79, including a balance from the preceding year of 11,498\$851, were 228,873\$391. The expenditures for the same year were 207,900\$461, leaving a balance of 20,972\$930 of which only 486\$391 represented cash in hand. For the year 1880-81 the receipts are estimated at 202,041\$310 and the expenditures at 220,970\$522, leaving an estimated deficit of 18,929\$212.

—The humanity of Brazilian slavery finds a significant illustration in the following incident told by the *Gazeta* of Uberaba, Minas Geraes. At Quera-Anzol, district of Patrocinio, in the early part of July, two men named Manoel Mendes and Romualdo severely whipped a poor slave. A few days after an uncle of the two men, named José da Cunha, arrived, and on being told of the whipping said that they did not know how to punish, and that the *bicho* had not been properly whipped. The brute then took a razor a literally lashed the poor slave's back into shreds, after which he applied pepper sauce, salt and lemon juice to the wounds. The wife of the unhappy black, begging pardon for her husband, was also whipped. The man died from his cruel punishment the following day. An inquiry was made by the police, of course, and the neighborhood was highly indignant at the outrage, but nothing is more certain than that these inhuman wretches will escape all punishment for their crime.

—The total national debt of Great Britain on the 31st of March last was 4,775,755,608.

—The tea crop of India this year is estimated at 70,000,000 pounds, nearly double the yield of 1878. Ten years ago it was only 14,000,000 pounds.

—The Board of Trade returns for the month of July show that the exports of Great Britain amounted to a total value of £20,270,579 against £16,611,122 during the same month of 1879, and the imports to £33,354,595 against £30,186,072 in 1879.

—A NEW COPE disease is said to have attacked the coffee plantations in New Granada. It is a fungoid growth of a greenish color at first but afterwards turning to brown, and is phosphorescent at night. Both leaves and fruit fall from the trees, which are left quite bare. Surely the sulphur treatment so successful in the ordinary disease (*Hemileia vastatrix*) might be tried with advantage in this case also.—*British Mercantile Gazette*.

—SHOULD Thomas Hartley, who was in Ilheus Ayres for a time when the yellow fever was raging, A. D. 1850, for a statement of his work's death in this day's paper, he is earnestly requested to write home immediately, or to ours.

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